

September 18, 2014
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Public Library and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 16, 2013”

Members:	Jason Bond (absent)
	Dan Gitler
	Jim Gorman
	Sean Johnson
	Frank Ryan (absent)

Liaison	Sean Kaplan (absent)
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Vice Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. & Mrs. Storch, 401 Fairview Avenue attended the meeting and provided a letter requesting that the tree in the front of their home be removed as it has caused damage to their cars, side walk and property. They also provided a video and photos of a landscaper repairing their lawn and the excessive tree roots that are throughout their front lawn. Vice Chairman Gitler stated that the Commission would assess the situation and make a determination if the tree should be removed. Also, Vice Chairman Gitler indicated that if removed he requested that a smaller tree be planted in the area of the present tree, (on the right of way) but not between the sidewalk and curb.

Seeing that there were
no further public comments, Vice Chairman Gitler closed the Public Portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the June 12, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the June, July & August, 2014 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

1. 320 Anthony Avenue – Mr. Gorman will look at the tree in the front of this property that is lifting the sidewalk and street.

2. 555 Ashland Road – Commission agreed to remove the 2 pin oaks that are marked behind this property.
3. 268 S. Lincoln Avenue – Commission agreed that the ash and maple tree should be trimmed.
4. 236 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Gorman will look at this tree in the front of the property that needs to be either pruned or removed if dead.
5. 317 Giles Avenue – Mr. Gitler looked at this tree and he feels that the tree is healthy and nothing is needed.
6. 241 Cook Avenue – Commission looked at this small maple and determined that nothing was needed.
7. 220 Vesper Avenue – Commission agreed that the black locust at the right of the driveway should be removed and the stump grinded. Also, Mr. Bond suggested to plant a flowering cherry left of the drive between the spruce and locust.
8. 151 Lee Drive – Mr. Johnson will look at this tree that has unusual drill marks that may be from beetles along the tree.
9. 426 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Garofalo called and requested that his tree be removed from the Agenda.
10. 522 Fairview Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree in the front of this property that resident feels is either dead or diseased.
11. Blackford Avenue – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the trees on the block of Blackford between Wood and Egel to mark them if they are dead.
12. 212 Lucia Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree in the front of this property that resident feels needs to be pruned.
13. 702 Cook Avenue – Mr. Gitler looked at the trees and requested that Predator trim all trees at 702 Cook (Pin Oaks).
14. 131 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree in the front of business that they feels is uprooting the sidewalk.
15. 507 Walnut Street – Mr. Johnson will look at tree with dead limbs at this location.
16. 405 Giles Avenue – Mr. Gitler recommended that Predator remove dead limb stuck up in tree and also prune tree.
17. 250 South Lincoln Boulevard – Commission agreed to remove this tree.
18. 413 Cook Avenue – Commission determined that the small maple tree is healthy and nothing is needed.
19. 129 Emerson Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree in the front of this house that needs trimming.
20. 717 Hazelwood Avenue (Raphael St. side) – Mr. Johnson will look at the tree that resident feels needs to be trimmed.
21. 421 North Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree on the John Street side of the driveway to determine if it is dead.
22. 210 Lincoln Boulevard – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that resident feels should be removed.
23. 160 Shepherd Avenue – Mr. Johnson will look at this tree at the corner of Shepherd and Nutwood that resident feels is dropping branches.
24. 125 Woodland Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at this tree that resident feels needs pruning.

Work Agenda

1. 307 – 311 Greene Avenue – Frank Ryan will meet with the Victor Crowell Park Committee and discuss these trees and bring back to the Commission.

2. 145 Vogel Place – Mr. Johnson indicated that this tree needs to be trimmed, with a 2 inch thinning, elevated and trimmed away from wires.
3. 433 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Gitler will check on the tree that resident feels has dead limbs that may fall.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – This item was tabled as Mr. Bond was not present at meeting.
- (B) Planting of trees on Hazelwood Avenue and Harris Avenue – Mr. Gitler asked residents on both streets if they wanted to get a tree in the front of their property, but was unsuccessful.

New Business

- (A) Fall Planting – Review List – Commission will review this list further at the October meeting and then proceed with the planting. Commission agreed to have Linda contact Hazelwood School principal to see if they would want the Commission to plant a row of trees in the back of the school, along Dorn Avenue.
- (B) Update on 2014 Budget – Commission discussed the remaining funds in the 2014 budget, and possibly notifying residents that have potentially dangerous trees or trees that need pruning that this work is scheduled to be done by Predator. Mr. Gitler and Linda will look at purchasing tree hangers to notify residents, so that residents will not be surprised if their trees are pruned.
- (C) Possible Estimate for Pruning of Trees on Lincoln Boulevard – Commission determined that this was not needed.
- (D) Seminar – “The Right Tree, Planted in the Right Place, the Right Way – Living with Trees Post-Superstorm Sandy – Mr. Johnson will be attending in Wayne.
- (E) Commission discussed the trees at Watchung School and the gator bags that seemed to be empty. They will go back to look at the new trees to see if they are growing.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2014 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

